

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

1. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

A review of Applicant's arguments in the Papers filed 2/1/2012 and 10/28/2011 and a review of the instant claims has convinced the examiner that the claims are allowable over the applied prior art of record.

2. Claims 2, 4, 8-14 and 17-20 are allowed. All withdrawn claims have been rejoined. The withdrawn claims depend from independent claim 19.

3. Regarding independent claim 19 and the dependent claims, the prior art fails to teach or suggest a paper for a laminate panel and a laminate comprising: a first layer comprising a resin impregnated decorative paper or a resin impregnated overlay, the resin comprising a melamine resin or an urea resin or a mixture of both; and a second layer of abrasion resistant particles uniformly distributed on and adhered to the first layer, wherein the abrasion resistant particles have an outer coating consisting of an amino-silane adhesion promoter, the outer coating formed by coating the abrasion resistant particles with a liquid consisting of the amino-silane adhesion promoter, and then drying the coated abrasion resistant particles to form the outer coating on the abrasion resistant particles, wherein the abrasion resistant particles with the outer coating thereon are applied to the first layer after drying the coated abrasion resistant particles.

4. The closest prior art of Dohring et al. (US 2003/0138600) teaches a paper for producing panels, however, fails to teach a paper and a laminate where the resin comprising a melamine resin or an urea resin or a mixture of both; and a second layer

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of abrasion resistant particles uniformly distributed on and adhered to the first layer, wherein the abrasion resistant particles have an outer coating consisting of an amino-silane adhesion promoter, the outer coating formed by coating the abrasion resistant particles with a liquid consisting of the amino-silane adhesion promoter, and then drying the coated abrasion resistant particles to form the outer coating on the abrasion resistant particles, wherein the abrasion resistant particles with the outer coating thereon are applied to the first layer after drying the coated abrasion resistant particles.

5. The secondary references of record do not teach or suggest the combined limitations not taught by Dohring.

6. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Brent T. O'Hern whose telephone number is (571)272-6385. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday, 9:00-6:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Sample can be reached on (571) 272-1376. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Brent T. O'Hern/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1783
February 1, 2012